

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 6-8 and 10-24 and AMEND claims 5, 9 in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled).

5. (currently amended) The electronic commerce system according to claim-~~28~~ 25, further comprising a purchase and sale information managing unit concluding a transaction of the registered sale or purchase request, which is obtained by said searching unit.

Claims 6-8 (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The electronic commerce system according to claim-~~26~~ 25, further comprising a unit displaying a transaction partner that sets a transaction condition and a transaction partner that does not set a transaction condition by making a distinction between the transaction partners, when transaction partners searched by said searching unit are listed and displayed.

Claims 10-24 (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) An electronic commerce system aiding in purchase and sale of commodities, comprising:

first and second registered commodity data storing units, each storing at least information identifying commodities associated with registering transaction partners, commodity prices, and information relating to public disclosure indicating whether other transaction partners are allowed access to the commodity prices;

a unit searching for a first commodity identified by the information stored in said first registered commodity data storing unit as publicly disclosed and identified by the information stored in the second registered commodity data storing unit, and reading price change

conditions including the information identifying a second commodity transacted with the first commodity, which are registered for another transaction partner; and

a sale and purchase situation judgment unit judging both the first commodity and the second commodity as tradable candidates, if the information identifying the second commodity is stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit as publicly disclosed or publicly nondisclosed by referring to the information of the second commodity registered in association with the first commodity in the second registered commodity data storing unit.

26. (previously presented) The electronic commerce system according to claim 25, further comprising outputting transaction completion information of the first and second commodities when a first price of the first commodity stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit matches a changed price obtained based on a change condition of a second price for the first commodity registered in the second registered commodity data storing unit, and a third price for the second commodity stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit matches a fourth price for the second commodity registered in the second registered commodity data storing unit.

27. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for aiding in purchase and sale of commodities that when executed causes a computer to perform a process comprising:

storing in a first registered commodity data storing unit at least information identifying a first set of commodities, commodity prices, and information relating to public disclosure, indicating whether other transaction partners are allowed access to the commodity prices, in association with a first transaction partner for each commodity handled by the first transaction partner;

searching for a first commodity identified by the information stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit as publicly disclosed that corresponds to the information identifying the first commodity from a second registered commodity data storing unit storing the information identifying a second set of commodities, a commodity price, and price change conditions including the information of a second commodity transacted with the first commodity, which are registered for a second transaction partner; and

judging both the first and second commodities as tradable candidates, if the information identifying the second commodity is stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit as publicly disclosed or publicly nondisclosed, by referring to the information of the second

commodity registered in association with the first commodity from the second registered commodity data storing unit.

28. (previously presented) An electronic commerce method aiding in purchase and sale of commodities, comprising:

storing as first registered commodity data for a first transaction partner, at least information identifying a first set of commodities and for each commodity in the first set, a commodity price and information relating to public disclosure, indicating whether access by other transaction partners is allowed;

searching for the information identifying a first commodity included in the first registered commodity data as publicly disclosed that matches the information identifying the first commodity in second registered commodity data containing information identifying a second set of commodities handled by other transaction partners and, for each commodity in the second set, the commodity price and price change conditions, including information identifying a second commodity transacted with the first commodity; and

judging both the first and second commodities as tradable candidates, if the information identifying the second commodity is stored in the first registered commodity data as publicly disclosed or publicly nondisclosed, by referring to the information identifying the second commodity registered in association with the first commodity in the second registered commodity data.